

Environment and Public Affairs Committee

From: Paul Loring
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2013 12:08 PM
To: Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Subject: Inquiry into the Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas

I am very definitely concerned, opposed, to the Gas industry wanting to open up the more demanding gas resources all over WA as outlined to this inquiry. That concern includes all 4 of the environmental risks that the inquiry ToR list.

- a) how hydraulic fracturing may impact on current and future uses of land;
- b) the regulation of chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process;
- c) the use of ground water in the hydraulic fracturing process and the potential for recycling of ground water; and
- d) the reclamation (rehabilitation) of land that has been hydraulically fractured.

In addition to these I am equally concerned on other grounds that I would request the Inquiry also consider and comment upon.

Firstly, in Energy 2031, The Strategic Energy Initiative, it clearly outlines the need for WA to retain these 'fracked' ie, secondary energy sources, for the States own long term needs for gas. This is based on the States own estimates for the extraction rates of the primary easy to access gas fields, currently being exploited for essentially export, ie, Energy 2031 says we are probably already past 'peak' supply from these primary sources. Hence we need our parliament to take a precautionary approach to releasing these fraked sources to exploration and extraction. That equates to delaying such processes for several decades, until more information is available about those existing primary sources of gas supply. We need our parliamentarians to take the long term view for the sake of WA's much longer term needs. Only they (you) can show that visionary leadership, that Statesmanship.

Part of the former also needs WA to put far more research and resource into alternative sources of energy supply for WA. Non fossil fuel sources may indeed be feasible to meet WA's long term needs. But we don't have sufficient information to make that assessment now. That requires actually building large scale non fossil fuelled energy sources in WA now. We dare not 'cross our fingers' now by releasing these secondary sources of gas energy, in the hope that non fossil fuels sources will come to the rescue tomorrow? If the latter don't meet expectations, then the need to rely on these secondary gas sources become even more critical. It is a risk too large to take for WA's long term economy!

Please show Statesmanship beyond the Inquiry's narrow ToR, we are depending on you.

Regards

Paul Loring